

# Board Candidate Bios



## Director Candidates

### Adrienne Denham

Adrienne Denham is an immigration lawyer and long-time East Vancouver resident with deep roots in the community. She has spent over a decade supporting newcomers to Canada and is committed to equity, inclusion, and community empowerment. Adrienne currently serves as Chair of the Canadian Bar Association's BC Immigration Section Executive.

Her connection to Britannia is longstanding. As a member of the Legacy Masters Swim Club, she trains at the Britannia pool and values the way the team has brought East Van swimmers together. Legacy's first-ever Provincial Championship win in 2024 was a proud moment that reflected the strength and growth of the club.

Adrienne has also served on the Board of Learning Tree Daycare and been a volunteer coach with Trout Lake Little League and MicroFootie Soccer. She thrives on tackling complex, messy projects and negotiating them to completion.

### Kristen Hyodo

Kristen Hyodo is a third-generation Japanese Canadian settler, residing in East Vancouver with her husband and daughter, on the unceded and ancestral lands of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), the səłilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. She is a mother of a 21-month year old toddler, and expecting another little girl shortly, and a frequent user of the pool and library services at Britannia. In her day to day, Kristen is the Executive Director at Sasamat Outdoor Centre, a member of the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC. She has a wealth of experience with non-profit management, including experience in strategic governance, capital development/project management, financial management, and relational leadership. Kristen holds a Masters of Arts in Leadership, and has been leading teams at Sasamat since 2014. Kristen has been on both sides of board engagement, as a staff member reporting to a Board of Directors, as well as a board member, working towards strategic goals. Kristen served on the BC Camping Association Board of Directors for eight years, a provincial accreditation body and having maxed out her terms there, is looking for a new and more local Board to share her volunteer time and skills with. She is most passionate and child and youth development and environmental sustainability, and hopes to contribute her skills to the Britannia Board of Directors.

### **Brenda Kyle**

During the lockdown of 2020, from a poster tacked up in the neighbourhood, Brenda found her way to Britannia's online Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression committee. Here she found likeminded people trying to make a difference even in those dark days.

Latterly, as things began opening up she joined the active Arts and Culture committee and has been involved with Britannia's National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in Orange Shirt sales, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Black History Month events and most recently the Allies Circle.

She is running for the Board to further her commitment to her community.

Brenda lives with her family in the Grandview Woodland neighbourhood, where she has lived since 1989. Her favourite place in the world is any public library.

### **Christine McCallum**

I have lived in the Britannia neighbourhood for 11 years, raising two children and taking part in the many wonderful services the Britannia Community Service Centre provides. I am passionate about contributing to the vibrancy and inclusivity of our community. Serving on the Citizen's Assembly that drafted the Grandview-Woodland Community Plan in 2014–15 was a meaningful experience that deepened my commitment to local engagement. Professionally, I have spent over 20 years in Vancouver's software sector, leading GTM growth, strategy, and execution teams. These experiences have strengthened my skills in collaboration, organizational leadership, and strategy, which I am eager to apply in support of Britannia's vision and goals as a Board Director.

### **Nicki McGowan**

I grew up in East Van and I now live on Commercial Drive with my husband, 8 month old daughter, and our big scruffy dog. Over the last year I have spent so much time in different programs for parents and babies and I have really felt on a personal level how important these community spaces and programs are. To make sure that current and future generations have access to these important services, I think moving forward the Britannia renewal is an important priority.

I joined the board of the Trout Lake Community Centre, became a Vice-President there in 2020, then left when I moved closer to Britannia. I have been on the Britannia board for two years now. I also have professional experience supporting a board, and I currently do policy and negotiation work for the government.

**Sean Miles**

Sean has been the Director of Binnars' Project, a charity based in the DTES, for over 4 years and has 5 years of experience as Board Chair for Exchange Inner City, a DTES community economic development organization. Through his work, he has gained insight into budgeting, fund development and board governance, which he hopes will be well utilized by joining the board of Britannia. He is grateful to live on these unceded lands and call Commercial Drive home. Sean's hope in joining the board of Britannia Community Centre is to support the growth and development of an important hub of the neighbourhood as he raises his own family here.

**Jennifer Mitchell**

From settler roots, with a long history in Vancouver, I have been a member of the Commercial Drive community for over 13 years. As a young family we utilize the services offered by Britannia extensively. Our child has been the face of Eastside Family Place for over 3 years. I am a curious community builder who firmly believes that we are better together, and reconciliation requires action. I served 2.5 years on the Velopalooza board and have various other experiences in community outreach and event planning. Working over 7 years as a project manager for a global construction manager and now as a PM for the Mental Health Program at Providence Health Care, redeveloping the Foundry Vancouver-Granville, I bring a diverse skill set and public health lens that I hope to leverage in furthering the Britannia Renewal to successful completion.

**Terumi Squibb**

After serving on Britannia's board of directors the past two years, I've learned a lot and am grateful for the experiences that I have had here. I think it's important to volunteer and contribute to my community when I can, so I am running for re-election again! I was born in what is known as Vancouver, born to settler parents and I have lived and worked in the neighbourhood for the last 20 years. I am newly living with chronic illness, so I will be able to bring this new perspective with me if I am elected to serve on the board again. Thanks so much for your consideration!

**Ross Stewart**

No bio provided.

## **Staff Representative Candidate**

### **Collis Hunter**

Greetings, I'm Collis Hunter.

I would like to thank the board membership for the great work they do for Britannia and for taking a minute to hear my brief bio and background.

Firstly, I was born two blocks away from Britannia, my mother, aunt, and a couple other family members worked at Britannia from day one. Additionally, my father-in-law, was a member, treasurer, and president of the Britannia board during the early 2000's. I have many great memories, but one that's particularly special, was my first time on the ice with the late Pat Davitt, towing me around, rest in power. Britannia was where I was schooled, from childcare to graduation in 1995. I started volunteering as a youth and gained valuable experience. In 2020, I was hired as an auxiliary employee, my position is activity coordinator in the information centre. I can say honestly, I enjoy my job at Britannia and have not looked back since. Lastly, since coming aboard, I felt I have more to offer and have been interested in the board workings from the beginning, and I would appreciate the opportunity to become a member and to contribute in any way possible.

I feel it's important to have a staff representative, who can share insights from staff, patrons, and volunteers. I am a big fan of communication, I feel Britannia is an important hub in the community, and the more ideas and thoughts shared, make for a better community. I thank you, for taking a moment to hear a little about me, I look forward to the opportunity and if not, that's ok. I am happy to be able to contribute to the community and give back to Britannia in all ways.